

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: North Needs Assessment Public Hearing

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6:30pm

Location: North Town Hall (9305 North Road, North, SC 29112)

Chaired by: Mayor Patty Carson, Town of North

Attendees: Patty Carson, Town of North
Sherryl Mitchum, Times and Democrat
Deborah Cook, Town of North
Jeff Washington, Town of North
Sandra J. Sigmoor, North Family Community School
George E. Sigmoor, NFCS
Rick Jones, Pastor First Baptist Church
Annie Charley, Boltin Ave Church of God
Gwendolyn Wright, North Family Community School
Rev. Marie Ray, Pastor North U.M.C.
Daniel Jackson, Town of North
Jeff Derwort, LSCOG
Heather Warren, LSCOG

The meeting was opened by Mayor Patty Carson at 6:30pm. Jeff Derwort stated the purpose of the hearing, which was to discuss any needs North may have, and possible projects funded by CDBG grants that could meet those needs.

Mr. Derwort and Heather Warren proceeded to lead the discussion by asking those in attendance to express their views on what is needed by the community. In the interest of clarity and focus, Ms. Warren took notes, visible to all in attendance, on each point of discussion. The needs expressed were as follows:

Housing:

- Financial assistance and education, fair housing education, and post-disaster relief education (navigating FEMA process) are all needed.
- Residential homes are in need of rehab (including weatherization) or demo.

#3A - Infrastructure:

- Residents have requested that sewer lines be put in. When water lines were originally put in, sewer lines were not.
- The storm drainage system is inadequate. This has been an issue since at least the 1980s, but with the two most recent storm it has become clear that the lack of drainage is a major hazard, seriously affecting travel when roads flood.

- In terms of telecommunications needs, internet access in the town is very poor. This is possibly due to the number of people using a system that can only serve a much smaller group.

#2 - Economic Development:

- Vacant and dilapidated building downtown are discouraging the growth of business in the area. The state of the buildings make it financially unfeasible for business owners to pay rent for a space that needs extensive and costly repair. The roles town ordinances and/or tax incentives could play in this issue were discussed.

#1 - Workforce Development

- Job training is needed, as is direction on what types of jobs the potential workforce should be trained for.

#4 - Public Safety

- Residents are interested in forming a neighborhood Crime Watch.
- The fire department needs better access to water, perhaps in the form of more fire hydrants.

#5 - Downtown Revitalization:

- Accessibility in downtown is limited, particularly in regards to sidewalks and restrooms.
- An improved downtown streetscape would be welcome.

Neighborhood Revitalization

- A lack of adequate sidewalks is causing an accessibility issue in neighborhoods.

Public Facilities

- A larger library (with increased internet capacity) would be supported by current demand.
- Recreational facilities would be welcome.

#3B - Community Services

- Much interest was expressed in the developments of youth programs, perhaps comparable to a Boys & Girls Club. Childcare would also be helpful.
- Senior services and adult daycare are needed. Adult education exists, but could always use support.
- There is a major lack of health care services, which could be alleviated with an urgent care clinic and improved transportation to doctor appointments.

Once discussion was concluded, attendees were instructed to place stickers on the large sheets of paper on which Ms. Warren had been taking notes. This was done in order for the LSCOG staff to later assess attendees' need priorities.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

APPROVED: January 26, 2017 MINUTES

Mayor Patty Carson:

Patty Carson

Council Members:

Jeff Washington:

Jeff Washington

Julius Jones:

NOT PRESENT

Daniel Jackson:

[Signature]

Deborah Cook:

Deborah Cook

